

Man and Myth



We live in a media-mad age. Image is everything and substance doesn't count for much. In celebrating St. Patrick's feast today, it might be no harm to think about who he was. Over almost 1600 years, all sorts of stories have sprung up about him so his image, as we know it, may not be quite accurate! We can be sure of one thing; he didn't stand on some sunny Irish headland, robed in green, wearing a mitre, and dismissing, with a magisterial wave, snakes and other undesirables. The Romans pulled up sharply when they got to the coast of Wales. They took one look across the Irish Sea and called what

they saw "Hibernia", "Winter" in English! They had no appetite to invade our often grey, windy, cold and wet land, so they stayed where they were. Had St. Patrick been Irish, he would probably never have heard of Christ and we would never have heard of him.

He need not be a mysterious person, however, having written an account of his life called the "Confessio". Regardless of the minutiae and the legends, facts about him are revealed here. It is a very interesting read. What strikes one most is the forthright and simple way he puts things. Like our own race, he was a Celt and as a Celt, he had a deep spiritual side to his nature. Christianity lies very comfortably on this foundation, growing organically from the Celtic reverence for Nature. The "Breastplate of St Patrick", his most famous prayer, contains strong, passionate natural imagery.

These are some of his own words, this Saint we celebrate today: **"I bind unto myself today the virtues of the starlit heaven, the glorious sun's life-giving ray, the whiteness of the moon at even, the flashing of the lightning free, the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks, the stable earth, the deep salt sea around the old eternal rocks"**. Did he live on Shenick? Maybe he did. Is that his footprint at Red Island? Who knows? Was his goat robbed? Quite possibly! Was he strong, attractive, hard-working, with a powerful, persuasive voice? So it would seem. Did he love life? We can be sure he did.

May we, with gratitude, follow Christ's way, based on the same faith and with the same passion as the man who introduced Him to us in the first half of the 5th Cent!

Skerries Church Choir.

HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY



to all our contributors and readers. Enjoy the Skerries Parade commencing at 3pm which will be followed by the St Patrick's Day Concert in St Patrick's Church at 5pm. The concert will

conclude with a fireworks display on the beach at the South Strand at 7pm. All are welcome.

ANNIVERSARIES REMEMBERED

- ✦ Sat 16th 6pm: Paddy (Patrick) Lawlor, Kay Coleman, Richard & Mary Maguire, Deceased members of McDonnell family, Roscoe Briscoe, Mary Donagh & Helen Ward, Patrick Murray
- ✦ Sun 17th 9.30am: Jody & May Sherwin, Laurence Davey
- ✦ Sun 17th 11am: Leo Heffernan, Patrick O'Shea, Oliver Moore, Paddy O'Brien, Anne Smith
- ✦ Tues 19th 10am: Bernice McDonnell, Special Intention
- ✦ Wed 20th 10am: Christina Donnelly, Christina Devlin
- ✦ Thurs 21st 10am: Murty & Peggy O'Loughlen,
- ✦ Sat 23rd 10am: Tom & Peter O'Rourke
- ✦ Sat 23rd 6pm: Jenny Hyland, Michael McKenna, Sean Farrell, Noel Duffy, Breda Fitzgerald, Harry Loughrey
- ✦ Sun 24th 11am: Josephine Flanagan, Mona Wall, Rosemary Malone, Pat & Lil O'Brien & Family, Teresa (Terry) Lawlor, Noreen Boyle

MONTH'S MIND MASS

Saturday 16th March 6pm: Finley Gannon

MEETING OF ALL MINISTERS OF THE WORD

will take place on Wednesday evening 20th March in the glass area at the rear of the church after 7pm Lenten Mass – please note change of location.

PARISH BOOK CLUB

During the month of March we are reading *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen. In his book Nouwen shares a deeply personal meditation on Rembrandt's painting of *The Return of the Prodigal Son* and the powerful Gospel story told by Jesus. We will meet on Thursday March 28th at 7.30pm in 42 Strand St for a chat about the book. All are welcome.

SKERRIES ACTIVE RETIREMENT

Mon 18th March - no club on; Day trip to Belfast leaving from Skerries Church at 10am sharp.
Tues 19th – bowls at 2pm.

SCOIL REALT NA MARA Parents' Council and Red Island Wine Skerries kindly invite you to their Wine Tasting Night in Skerries Harps GAA Club on Thursday 28th March at 7:30 pm. Tickets €15 are available from Parents' Council Members (text 086 8555158) and Red Island Wine. All proceeds will go towards an outdoor classroom for the school.

EMMANUEL PROJECT: The next event will take place Sunday 24th March 6 pm in the church. We will celebrate with music, talks and prayer on the theme of thinking of others in '*Giving and Receiving*'.
Come along - All are welcome...All Belong.

ANNUAL DAFFODIL DAY COFFEE MORNING



in Aid of the Irish Cancer Society will take place once again in Skerries Rugby Club on Friday 22nd March from 9.00am to 12.00pm. As always, there will be tea and coffee, wonderful home made cakes and cookies, Daffodil merchandise for sale and a fantastic raffle. For further information or to help out in any way, please contact Paula O'Neill on 087 845 9610. Hope to see you all there.

PRO LIFE & PRO FAMILY EVENT

Wed 20th March, Grand Hotel, Malahide, 8pm. A talk by David Quinn on the Pro Life Movement and Maria Steen on Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) programme in schools.
Hosted by The Iona Institute & Fingal for Life.

SKERRIES MEN'S SHED - a table quiz to raise funds for Skerries Men's Shed takes place next Friday, 22nd March at 8.00 pm in Skerries Harps Clubhouse. Tables of 4 @ €40. All welcome.

IRISH BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

will be at the Skerries Community Centre on Thursday 21st March from 4.30pm to 8.30pm. Please remember that many patients in hospitals need our blood and this need never ceases.
Further information from Local Blood Transfusion Service Office. Tel: 041 6859994.

COUNCIL GIVING HAWTHORN AND MOUNTAIN ASH TREES TO FINGAL HOUSEHOLDS

To celebrate National Tree week, Fingal County Council is offering a small tree to households who will plant them in their private garden in an effort to promote the growth of trees, encourage pollinating insects and reduce the effects of Climate Change. There will be a tree planting demonstration in Ardgillan on Wednesday, 20 March at 11am and the trees will be given out after the demonstration. Further details from 087 752 0506 by text or email tree.planting@fingal.ie.

BEE MONITORING

Would you like to become involved in the National Biodiversity Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme? It only takes 1 hour of your time and involves counting bees on a fixed 1 - 2 kilometre walk. A talk will be given by Kate Harrington, a local biologist, on Saturday 23rd March at 11am in the Sailing Club.

SKERRIES COMMUNITY GAMES would like to thank everyone who generously contributed to their annual church gate collection last weekend. Your support is very much appreciated.

30 YEARS AGO IN THE PARISH

- Plans were being made to stage the Stations of the Cross pageant on Good Friday with pupils from Holy Faith/de la Salle College
- Teachers in the College were training for the new Junior Certificate Examination which was to be brought in shortly
- Skerries Historical Society was presenting a paper entitled "The Police and Skerries", research based on State Papers newly released
- Crann Phadraig members were overwhelmed with the response to their appeal for used newspapers/magazines/waste paper
- Huge success for junior members of Skerries Athletic Club at the Dublin Indoor Championships - 10 medal winners, including 5 gold medals

LOUGHSHINNY & RUSH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our March Talk is entitled "The Rush and Lusk Train Derailment – which occurred on 5th. January, 1963" by Aidan Langley. Venue: Strand Bar, Rush, Thursday 28th March, 8pm.

FIRST SKERRIES REPAIR CAFÉ

Sunday 24th March 2019, 3 to 5pm, Bus Bar, Skerries. Mend and Extend the Life of your clothes. Learn how to mend, embellish and embroider your clothes – no previous skills needed. Bring down your clothes in need of attention, we'll show you how to mend them. Free event – donations welcome. *An Initiative of Sustainable Skerries.*

SKERRIES HARPS GAA CLUB

Congrats to SCC Senior footballers on winning the Dublin Schools final.

Wed 20. Adult Hurling Ige v Ballyboden, H at 8 pm
Sat 23. Senior football v Kilmacud-Crokes, H at 7.30
Sun 24. Minor teams play Ige games, H at 11 am
Sun 31. Senior football Ige v Thos Davis, H, 10.30
We encourage our members to support the Blood Donor Clinic on Thurs 21 March.
On St Patricks Day, join us in clubhouse after the Parade for the usual Ri Ra.
Zingo 1, 5, 4, 3, 7, 2, 6. Jackpot now €4,100. Next draw at 8 pm on St Patricks Day.
Easter Camp 23/25 April (10 am – 2 pm) for 5 to 13 year olds. Contact Louise. www.skerriesharps.ie.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

O'Byrne (Declan): the wife (Lorraine Richardson), mother and sister of the late Declan O'Byrne wish to thank all their relatives, friends and neighbours who helped them through their recent unexpected sad loss. They are deeply grateful to all those who attended the Wake, Funeral Mass and sent Mass Cards, Enrolments and Letters of Sympathy. Your support and kind words have left us overwhelmed. We will never be able to thank you all enough. The holy sacrifice of the mass will be offered for your intentions.